

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1149

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

HQ USSOUTHCOM SCSA

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 1522

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT; SOPN, UY, CI

SUBJ: THE PINOCHET - BORDABERRY MEETING

REFS: (A) MONTEVIDEO 1458 (DTG 271403Z APR 76)

(B) MONTEVIDEO 1467 (DTG 271942Z APR 76)

(C) MONTEVIDEO 1474 (DTG 271941Z APR 76) (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: THE PINOCHET VISIT, WHICH AT FIRST APPEARED TO BE JUST ANOTHER ROUND IN URUGUAY'S EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN REGIONAL INTERDEPENDENCE, PRODUCED WHAT WE BELIEVE TO BE POTENTIALLY IMPORTANT POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES. THE TWO CHIEFS OF STATE SHOWED AN UNUSUAL CONVERGENCE OF VIEWS ON KEY MATTERS. BOTH LEADERS STRESSED A COMMON PERCEPTION OF THE EXTERNAL THREAT FACING THEIR NATIONS AND THE NEED FOR CONTINENTAL ACTION WITHIN THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM TO COMBAT THIS THREAT. THEY CALLED FOR THE CREATION OF NEW DOMESTIC INSTITUTIONS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES CAPABLE OF BOTH PROTECTING THE STATE AND GUARANTEEING FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS. THERE IS EVERY INDICATION THAT  
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PERSONAL AND POLITICAL TIES WERE CEMENTED, TIES WHICH HAVE

BROUGHT THE TWO NATIONS MUCH CLOSER TOGETHER. THE EMBASSY DOES NOT HAVE THE PERSPECTIVE TO MAKE A DEFINITIVE JUDGMENT FROM HERE, BUT WE BELIEVE THAT THE COINCIDENCE OF VIEWS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES COULD WELL LEAD TO A MUCH MORE CLOSELY COORDINATED APPROACH TO REGIONAL AND HEMISPHERIC AFFAIRS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE MEETING OF PRESIDENTS PINOCHET AND BORDABERRY WAS NOT SIMPLY A RETURN VISIT BY PINOCHET AS DEMANDED BY PROTOCOL. RATHER, IN ADDITION TO THE PERSONAL LIKING FOR ONE ANOTHER DEVELOPED DURING BORDABERRY'S SEPTEMBER 1975 VISIT TO CHILE, AND REINFORCED DURING PINOCHET'S VISIT HERE, THE TWO, FROM DISPARATE BACKGROUNDS, CAME VERY CLOSE TO A COMMON PERCEPTION OF THEIR NATIONS' PROBLEMS AND THE CAUSES THEREOF. THE MONTEVIDEO MEETING BROUGHT A FURTHER, AND ARTICULATED, CONSENSUS ON HOW TO CONFRONT THE MARXISTS, STRENGTHEN THEIR GOVERNMENTS AND PROVIDE FOR DEFENSE OF FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS WITHOUT AT THE SAME TIME PAVING THE WAY FOR A RESURGENCE OF MARXISM. FURTHER SIMILARITIES BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS WERE ALSO DISCOVERED. THE CHILEAN MINISTER OF ECONOMY, FOR EXAMPLE, TOLD THE AID REPRESENTATIVE THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS HAD FOUND THAT THEY HAD VERY SIMILAR PROBLEMS IN THE ECONOMIC SPHERE AND THAT THEY INTENDED TO WORK MUCH CLOSER IN THE FUTURE SO AS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EACH OTHER'S EXPERIENCE.

3. IN VARIOUS PUBLIC UTTERANCES BOTH PRESIDENTS STATED THEIR FIRM BELIEF THAT WORLD-WIDE TOTALITARIAN MARXISM, WHICH THEY SAW AS PROTECTED BY DETENTE, IS CONTINUING TO USE SUBVERSION, TERRORISM, INFILTRATION, CAMPAIGNS OF DEFAMATION AND EVEN SUPPORT FOR OPEN GUERRILLA WARFARE TO OVERTHROW DEMOCRATIC STATES. THE STRONG ANTI-COMMUNIST STANCE, THEREFORE, IS NOT SURPRISING. WHAT WAS NEW, HOWEVER, WAS THE FORMALIZATION OF VIEWS IN AN OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE WHICH CALLED FOR, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE ENTIRE CONTINENT TO "...ASSUME THE RESPONSIBILITY OF GUARANTEEING ITS OWN SECURITY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CURRENT PROVISIONS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM..." WHILE THERE WERE SUGGESTIONS THAT BORDABERRY DISCUSSED SUCH CONCERNS WITH PRESIDENTS BANZER AND STROESSNER, THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME VIEWS ON

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THE ISSUE WERE SO DISCLOSED. WHETHER OR NOT IT WILL BE FOLLOWED BY FURTHER SUCH CONSULTATIONS WITH OTHER SOUTHERN CONE NATIONS OR PERHAPS BY A COMMON FRONT IN THE OAS REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

4. AN UNUSUAL ASPECT OF THE VISIT WAS THE INTERJECTION OF WHAT ARE NORMALLY DOMESTIC POLITICS INTO A MEETING OF PRESIDENTS. THIS INCLUDED PUBLIC STATEMENTS REVEALING

THAT THE TWO PRESIDENTS MET TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE FORM OF GOVERNMENT IN CHILE AND URUGUAY. CHILEAN ADVISORS ON CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM ALSO MET WITH URUGUAYAN OFFICIALS WHO ARE CURRENTLY DISCUSSING THE FUTURE COURSE OF THE POLITICAL LIFE OF THIS COUNTRY. THERE WAS NO ATTEMPT TO HIDE THIS. IN FACT, PINOCHET POINTED OUT PUBLICLY THE COINCIDENCE OF THOUGHT ON THE SUBJECT BETWEEN HIMSELF AND BORDABERRY. RELEASED ON CONSTITUTIONALISM HAD AN IMMEDIATE IMPACT ON THE URUGUAYAN PRESS AND ON URUGUAYAN POLITICIANS, GIVING THEM SOME FURTHER CAUSE FOR HOPE THAT A POLITICAL OPENING MAY BE IN THE WIND. THIS ASPECT OF THE VISIT AS IT RELATES TO URUGUAY WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF A SEPARATE CABLE.

5. WE CONCLUDE THAT THE VISIT WAS A GREAT SUCCESS FROM THE URUGUAYAN POINT OF VIEW. A SENIOR URUGUAYAN MILITARY OFFICER WHO IS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH PRESIDENT BORDABERRY'S REPRESENTATIVES ON THE FUTURE POLITICAL STRUCTURE OF URUGUAY, SUMMARIZED IT QUITE WELL. SINCE THE TWO COUNTRIES' ECONOMIES AND CLIMATES ARE SIMILAR, NO SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC ACCORDS WERE EVEN INTENDED. A RELATIVELY UNIMPORTANT, BUT FORMAL, AGREEMENT PROVIDED WINDOW DRESSING FOR THE VISIT. URUGUAY HAS BEEN SEEKING FOR SOME YEARS, TO BUILD REGIONAL INTERDEPENDENCE THROUGH A SERIES OF AGREEMENTS AND THROUGH PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AS WELL. THIS URUGUAYAN OBJECTIVE WAS LIMITED WITH RESPECT TO CHILE BECAUSE OF THE ANDES. HOWEVER, PERSONAL AND POLITICAL TIES WERE ESTABLISHED AND THE PRESIDENTS AND THEIR CIVILIAN AND MILITARY ENTOURAGES GOT ALONG FAMOUSLY. THESE NEWLY CEMENTED TIES WILL BRING THE TWO NATIONS MUCH CLOSER TOGETHER. ALTHOUGH THAT SENIOR OFFICER DID NOT SAY SO, IT WOULD SEEM TO FOLLOW THAT CHILE AND URUGUAY CAN BE EXPECTED TO MOVE TOWARDS CLOSER COORDINATION OF FOREIGN, PARTICULARLY CONFIDENTIAL

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HEMISPHERIC, POLICY. OTHER GOU OFFICIALS, SUCH AS THE SECRETARY OF THE PRESIDENCY, HAVE COMMENTED TO US IN SIMILAR TERMS, STRESSING THE PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO PRESIDENTS AND THE COMMON PERCEPTIONS FURTHER STRENGTHENED DURING THIS VISIT. SIRACUSA

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## Message Attributes

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